



State of Utah

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Utah Report on the Environment 2008

Milestones Made to Air, Land and Water

Salt Lake City, Utah – Utah's environment continues to improve due to significant milestones achieved in 2008, according to the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) annual report released today.

"In 2008 we made some notable improvements to our air, land and water," said Bill Sinclair, acting executive director of DEQ. "The achievements are a result of collaborative efforts with communities, local governments, the State Legislature, federal partners and many stakeholders."

The 23-page report highlights successes and challenges in each of the four main sections: air, climate change, land and water.

For instance, retrofitting old school buses with cleaner technology is helping improve air quality and protecting the health of schoolchildren – efforts made possible due to partnerships with schools, governments and clean air advocates. Meanwhile, plans are in the making to meet tougher federal standards on certain air pollutants that will improve the air for future generations.

Benchmarks were set for cutting greenhouse gasses to combat climate change and ensuring a sustainable energy-efficient future while a growing number of businesses are signing up for the Climate Registry, which lays the groundwork to begin reporting greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2008, significant progress was achieved in the clearing of the old Geneva Steel mill property where cleanup is about to transform a once blighted property into a bustling redevelopment.

The first-ever standard for selenium pollution for the Great Salt Lake is now set while a governor-appointed Great Salt Lake Advisory Council is looking at how to manage the lake for future generations.

The report is a Web-based document and available to the public at:

http://www.deq.utah.gov/envrpt/docs/Utah_Report_on_the_Environment_2008.pdf

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